

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the instant response. Claims 1-31 have been cancelled. New Claims 32-36 have been added. No new matter has been added as a result of the Claim amendments.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 13-16 and 31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

New independent Claim 32 includes the limitations of Claim 13 and therefore is in condition for allowance. As such, allowance of Claim 32 is earnestly solicited. New dependent Claims 33-35 include the limitations of Claims 14-16, respectively, and therefore are in condition for allowance. As such, allowance of dependent Claims 33-35 is earnestly solicited.

New independent Claim 26 includes the limitations of Claim 31 and therefore, Claim 36 is in condition for allowance. As such, allowance of Claim 36 is earnestly solicited.

CLAIM REJECTIONS35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-2, 7-8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kilian (U.S. Patent No. 5,274,217), hereafter referred to as Kilian, in view of Yue (U.S. Patent No. 6,748,116 B1), hereafter referred to as Yue. The rejection is moot in light of the claim amendments.

Claims 19-20, 25-26, 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yue in view of Kilian. The rejection is moot in light of the claim amendments.

Claims 5, 10, 18 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kilian and Yue as applied to Claims 1, 2, 8, and 20 above and further in view of Chacon et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,831,819), hereafter referred to as Chacon. The rejection is moot in light of the claim amendments.

Claims 3-4, 9, 21-22, 27 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kilian and Yue in view of Kiernan (PUB. No. US 2002/0110238v A1). The rejection is moot in light of the claim amendments.

Claims 6, 11, 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kilian and Yue in view of Miller (U.S. Patent No. 5,660,448). The rejection is moot in light of the claim amendments.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kilian and Yue in view of Louis (U.S. Patent No. 5, 212, 473). The rejection is moot in light of the claim amendments.

CONCLUSION


In light of the above listed remarks, reconsideration of the rejected Claims is requested. Based on the arguments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 32-36 overcome the rejections and objections of record and, therefore, allowance of Claims 32-36 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have a question regarding the instant response, the Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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